

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A device for electronic article search and supply services to which a subscriber having a subscription contract accesses over a computer network in order to obtain information on an electronic article, comprising:

meta-data described by definitions that each publisher providing said electronic article defines differently;

meta-data loading means for absorbing said different definitions and loading each of said meta-data;

a database established by storing data loaded by said meta-data loading means;

search means for searching through said database;

link information display means for displaying link information to said electronic article indicated by said meta-data; and

access means for accessing to said indicated electronic article.

2. (Original) A device for electronic article search and supply services according to claim 1 wherein said meta-data is an article bibliography or an article subscriber of said

electronic article and link information indicating a place where its original article is placed electronically.

3. (Original) A device for electronic article search and supply services according to claim 1, further comprising a subscription master in which subscriber's additional information is stored wherein said search means comprises access right authorization means for authorizing a subscriber's access right based on information from said subscription master.

4. (Original) A device for electronic article search and supply services according to claim 3, said search means further comprising billing means for billing a subscriber based on information from said subscription master when a search is executed.

5. (Original) A device for electronic article search and supply services according to claim 1 wherein said meta-data is described by using the Generalized Markup Language or Extensible Mark-up Language.

6. (Original) A device for electronic article search and supply services according to claim 1 wherein said meta-data is provided by each of said publishers over said computer network or through an auxiliary memory medium.

7. (Original) A method for electronic article search and supply services to which a subscriber having a subscription contract accesses over a computer network in order to obtain information on an electronic article, comprising the steps of

loading each of said meta-data described by definitions that each publisher providing said electronic article defines differently by absorbing said different definitions;

storing data loaded by said meta-data loading step in a database;

providing search means for searching through said database; and

obtaining said electronic article based on link information indicated by said meta-data.

8. (Original) A method for electronic article search and supply services according to claim 7 wherein said meta-data is an article bibliography or an article subscriber of said electronic article and link information indicating a place where its original article is placed electronically.

9. (Original) A method for electronic article search and supply services according to claim 7, further comprising the step of storing subscriber's additional information in a subscription master, wherein said search means comprises access right authorization means for authorizing a

subscriber's access right based on information from said subscription master.

10. (Original) A method for electronic article search and supply services according to claim 9, said search means further comprising billing means for billing a subscriber based on information from said subscription master when a search is executed.

11. (Original) A method for electronic article search and supply services according to claim 7 wherein said meta-data is described by using the Generalized Markup Language or Extensible Mark-up Language.

12. (Original) A method for electronic article search and supply services according to claim 7 wherein said meta-data is provided by each of said publishers over said computer network or through an auxiliary memory medium.

13. (New) A method for electronic article search and supply services to which a subscriber having a subscription contract accesses over a computer network in order to obtain information on an electronic article, comprising:

loading meta-data for each of a plurality of articles, wherein said plurality of articles are from different publishers and wherein a publisher from said different publishers describes definitions for meta-data of an article from said plurality of articles differently from another publisher from said different publishers;

merging said loaded meta-data into a database;

searching through said merged meta-data based on a query from said subscriber; and

obtaining said electronic article based on link information indicated by said meta-data.

14. (New) The method for electronic article search and supply services according to claim 13, wherein said publisher of said article describes a definition of a field of said loaded meta-data for said article differently from said another publisher.

15. (New) The method for electronic article search and supply services according to claim 13, wherein said publisher provided more meta-data definitions for said article than said another publisher.

16. (New) The method for electronic article search and supply services according to claim 13, wherein said publisher named a category of meta-data for said article differently than said another publisher.

17. (New) The method for electronic article search and supply services according to claim 13, wherein description of meta-data definitions for said article provided by said publisher is of a higher quality than description of meta-data definitions from said another publisher.

18. (New) The method for electronic article search and supply services according to claim 13, wherein said publisher defined a meta-tag of said meta-data for said article differently from said another publisher.